

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 Data C generated by scrambling user-desired digital data  
P and a control word  $CW_p$  corresponding to the number of  
reproductions  $p$  are recorded on recording media. When  
creating a master, a user has already been charged for the  
number of reproductions  $p$ . A decryption block decrypts the  
control word  $CW_p$ , which is read from the recording media, to  
10  $CW_0$ . A de-scrambler uses the decryption control word  $CW_0$  to  
decrypt the digital data P for output to a reproduction unit.  
After confirming the end of reproduction, the decryption block  
writes a control word  $CW_{(p-1)}$  back to the recording media. The  
recording media may be reproduced  $p$  times with no need for  
communication between a reproduction device and an accounting  
15 manager.

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